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Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

LABOR AREA RESEARCH PUBLICATION

UNEMPLOYMENT SOARS

The rate of unemployment took one of its largest increases over the month of January reaching a level of 9.9 percent. This is an increase of 3.7 percentage points over the December rate of 6.2 percent. Last year at this time the rate of unemployment was 10.4 percent. The labor force figures show employment dropping by 2561 while unemployment increased by 3094. The rise in unemployment is substantiated by several points. First, the layoffs at the end of December did not impact our data until January. In the last week of December our six thousand initial claims were registered in the unemployment compensation office. Second, initial claims in December are continued claims in January that figure increased by 29 percent over the month. Third, the increases in unemployment were felt across the state. The Fall River rate rose by 2.6 percentage points and Brockton's increase was 3.1 percentage points. Even the state's unadjusted rate rose by 2 full percentage points from December to January. In summation, although the increases in rates were extraordinary they are at least substantiated.

THE LATEST CITY & TOWN INFORMATION

"Employment and Wages, by City and Town" for 1979 has just been released. A brief analysis is as follows. Establishments in the city of New Bedford employed 43,396 persons in 1979 paying an average wage of $10,892. Manufacturing accounted for 55.6 percent of total employment, while the textiles and apparel industry accounted for 43.4 percent of manufacturing employment. The service industry has increased in employment by 73.5 percent over a ten year period to a level of 6278. The town of Dartmouth had the next largest employment in the labor market area by having 4766 employed and an average wage of $7808. The industry providing the most of its employment was retail trade, at 2957, or 62% of the total. Most work in retail trade is part time which would account for the low total average wage. Fairhaven had an average employment of 3171 for 1979 with an average wage of $9728. Its largest industry is retail trade with 42.3 percent of total employment followed by services (18.4 percent), manufacturing (12.3 percent) and fishing (11.6 percent). The town of Acushnet is next with 1394 employed and an average wage of $11,854. The largest industry in this town is manufacturing. Freetown had an average employment of 976 and a wage of $11,328. Manufacturing is the largest employer with 34.1 percent of the total closely followed by retail trade (21.3 percent). Marion employs a total 914 with an average wage of $11,741. The service industry carries a 38.0 percent of employment. Mattapoisett employs 607 people at an average wage of $8553 followed by Lakeville, 412 employed, $6348 in wages and Rochester, 100 employed and $6888 average salary in 1979.

TOURISM MAKES AN IMPACT

The Bristol County Development Council has recently published a study on tourism and the results are as follows. The economic impact of tourism in New Bedford for 1980 was $1,432,501.56, a substantial increase over 1979. Visitors to the county were evidently traveling longer distances and enjoying longer vacations than in 1979. This is indicated by higher percentage of visitors from distant states such as, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. Visitors from Canada increased by 3.3 percentage points over 1979.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

In the month of January, applicant surplus occupations in Job Matching Service offices in the New Bedford L.M.A. were cashiers, sales workers, material handlers, construction workers and machine operators.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
LABOR FORCE	82,400	82,000	81,100
Employment	74,300	76,900	72,700
Unemployment	8,100	5,100	8,400
Unemployment Rate 3/	9.9	6.2	10.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	642	1,275	641
Continued Weeks Claimed	4,511	3,109	4,580

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	5,395	3,045	668	955	3,635
New Applicants (This Month)	752	321	116	140	374

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	JAN 1981
Unfilled Openings 2/	100
Openings Received	148

1 At End of Period 2 Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's) JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	*		
Nonmanufacturing - Total			
Construction			
Trans. & public utilities			
Wholesale & retail trade			
Finance, ins. & real estate			
Services & mining			
Government			

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's) JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
Manufacturing - Total	*		
Durable Goods - Total			
Primary & fab. metals			
Machinery (exc. electrical)			
Electric equipment			
Other durable goods			
Nondurable Goods - Total			
Textile mill products			
Apparel & related products			
Other Nondurable Goods			

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	*		
Average Weekly Hours			
Average Hourly Earnings			

* Figures will appear in the December issue of "Employment Review" due to Annual Benchmark Revisions.

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester

NEW BEDFORD LMA

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Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE RISE

The rate of unemployment rose to a level of 10.2 percent in the labor market area, for the month of February. This is a slight increase from the previous month and a 1.2 percentage point increase from a year ago. The figures for February show that, while the labor force remained stationary, unemployment increased by 3 percent and employment decreased by 1 percent. Information from the Insured unemployed tends to substantiate the increase. From January to February during the target week, initial claims, increased by 62 percent, while continued claims remained approximately the same.

THE CHANGING ECONOMY

The economic headlines of 1980 were constantly predicting a recession to impact the labor market area and the state. The recession never materialized; in fact, unemployment rates declined and the economy was doing very well. It now appears, in light of the increasing unemployment rates, that the cession of 1980 was delayed and is now affecting e economy, both local and statewide. However, there is the other side of the chair. That is, for sometime our economy was much better than the rest of the nation. Our non-reliance on the automobile industry has been very helpful to our economy over the past several months. However, the economy tends to stabilize. By that we mean the economy of New Bedford is tied into the national economy. Their are many employers in the L.M.A. who deal nationwide. If the national economy is off then eventually it will affect the local economy. This is what we are seeing now.

JOB OPENINGS-NEW BEDFORD VS THE STATE

The Employment Service Job Bank is a free opportunity for employers to place job openings with the Division of Employment Security in order to find qualified job applicants. The average annual wage for the state in February was $9425. This is an increase of 5 percent over the October, 1980 figure of $9015. Meanwhile, in New Bedford the average wege in February was $8905 an increase of 2 percent over the October figure of $8741.

JOB OPENINGS-NEW BEDFORD, OCTOBER VS NEW BEDFORD, FEBRUARY

A breakout of job openings by wages for the New Bedford local office from October 1980 to February 1981 is as follows. Keep in mind the wages given here are the minimum. In the area of professional, technical and managerial occupations the average annual wage was $12,282 for February, the highest in the area, but with a slight decrease of 1.8 percent from October. Clerical and Sales also had a slight decreasc in wages of 0.9 percent from the two time periods, the February wage being $8186. The service industry had a whopping increase of 21.0 percent in wages, averaging $4.01 per hour. Farming, fishing and forestry had an average wage of $4.35 an hour, an increase of 22.5 percent from October. The processing occupations had an average wage of $3.91 per hour for February even with wages decreasing almost 20 percent from October. The machine trades paid the second highest wages, $5.33 per hour, with an increase of 28.4 percent from October. In bench work the average wage paid was $3.61, the lowest of all categories, with no change from October. Structural work paid $4.27 an hour, a decrease of 7 percent and miscellaneous work paid the second lowest wage of $3.65 per hour, a decrease of 22.8 percent from October.

HARD-TO-FILL JOB OPENINGS

In the month of February hard-to-fill job openings listed with the Division of Employment Security in the New Bedford L.M.A. included licensed electrician, manufactuirng engineer, bookkeeper, machinist and administrative clerk.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
LABOR FORCE	82,100	82,400	77,200
Employment	73,700	74,300	70,200
Unemployment	8,400	8,100	7,000
Unemployment Rate 3/	10.2	9.9	9.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	1,038	642	596
Continued Weeks Claimed	4,574	4,511	4,455

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	5,383	3,036	643	924	3,667
New Applicants (This Month)	777	335	92	126	366

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	FEB 1981
Unfilled Openings 2/	147
Openings Received	299

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	63.2	63.1	63.8
Nonmanufacturing - Total	37.8	37.8	38.2
Construction	1.2	1.3	1.2
Trans. & public utilities	2.6	2.4	2.5
Wholesale & retail trade	11.6	11.7	11.9
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.1	2.0	2.1
Services & mining	9.3	9.3	9.4
Government	11.0	11.1	11.1

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
Manufacturing - Total	25.4	25.3	25.6
Durable Goods - Total	8.2	8.2	8.4
Primary & fab. metals	3.0	3.0	2.0
Machinery (exc. electrical)	INA	INA	INA
Electric equipment	INA	INA	INA
Other durable goods	5.2	5.2	5.5
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.2	17.1	17.2
Textile mill products	2.2	2.2	2.5
Apparel & related products	8.4	8.3	8.1
Other Nondurable Goods	6.6	6.6	6.6

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester.

NEW BEDFORD LMA

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Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

UNEMPLOYMENT TAKES A BREAK

The March rate of unemployment decreased for the first time since November in the New Bedford L.M.A. to a level of 9.4 percent, down from the previous month's level of 10.2. One of the reasons for the decrease in the rate is the number of people unemployed which, according to the Current Population Survey, decreased by 6.4 percent while employment increased by 2.2 percent. Claims information also substantiates the decrease in unemployment. In all three areas, continued, partials and initial claims, all showed significant decreases. Other indicators of the economy also show signs of strength The amount of job openings received by the Division of Employment Security from private industry increased dramatically for the third month in a row. This in turn shows a continuous increase in the amount of job openings filled by D.E.S. and a decrease in unfilled openings.

THE RATE OF INFLATION MARCH 1980 VS MARCH 1981

The Consumer Price Index or the rate of inflation as it is commonly called, has been released for March 1981 and the results are as follows. Overall, prices increased by 12 percent from March 1980 to March 1981 with the biggest increases in energy related items. Specifically fuel oil was up 30.2 percent while natural gas and electricity were up 16.6 percent for an overall increase of 20.7 percent from the previous year. The price of food rose 8.5 percent over the year with the largest increases in fruits and vegetables (20.8 percent). Food at home increased by 8.3 percent while food away from home increased by 8.9 percent. The cost of shelter rose 13.9 percent from March to March with residential rent increasing by 13.3 percent and homeownership up 14.4 percent. Apparel and upkeep rose by 7.8 over the year with men's apparel up 6.5 percent and women's apparel up 10.9 percent. Footwear rose by 4.7 percent. Medical care was also up 9.5 percent over last year and entertainment up 9.9 percent.

P.A.S.S. PROGRAM

To improve potential government contract and subcontract opportunities for small businesses the Small Business Administration has developed its Procurement Automated Source System (P.A.S.S.). Using the latest computer technology, PASS is designed to boost the number of government contracts awarded to small firms. PASS permits small firms to register their capabilities and have them matched with the needs of the procuring agencies. Small businesses which manufacture textiles, clothing, electronics, production equipment, medical, dental and ophthalmic goods and which are in "labor surplus areas" may wish to register with PASS in order to increase the probability of receiving defense procurement contracts. An area is classified as a labor surplus area if the unemployment rate is at least 1.20 times the national unemployment rate during the previous two calendar years. Areas that presently qualify are Acushnet, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marian, New Bedford and Rochester. The towns of Dartmouth and Mattapoisett do not qualify. The present list remains in effect until May 31, 1981.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

In the month of March, applicant surplus occupations in the Job Matching Service offices in the New Bedford L.M.A. were general office clerks, teachers, construction workers, machine operators and cashiers.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
LABOR FORCE	83,100	82,100	80,400
Employment	75,300	73,700	73,600
Unemployment	7,800	8,400	6,800
Unemployment Rate 3/	9.4	10.2	8.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	663	1,038	617
Continued Weeks Claimed	4,058	4,574	4,180

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	5,340	3,013	605	928	3,697
New Applicants (This Month)	1,003	440	101	128	422

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	MAR 1981
Unfilled Openings 2/	121
Openings Received	421

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	63.7	63.2	64.1
Nonmanufacturing - Total	38.1	37.8	38.5
Construction	1.3	1.2	1.3
Trans. & public utilities	2.6	2.6	2.5
Wholesale & retail trade	11.6	11.6	12.0
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.0	2.1	2.0
Services & mining	9.5	9.3	9.5
Government	11.1	11.0	11.2

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
Manufacturing - Total	25.6	25.4	25.6
Durable Goods - Total	8.4	8.2	8.5
Primary & fab. metals	3.1	3.0	2.9
Machinery (exc. electrical)	NA	NA	NA
Electric equipment	NA	NA	NA
Other durable goods	5.3	5.2	5.6
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.2	17.2	17.1
Textile mill products	2.2	2.2	2.5
Apparel & related products	8.4	8.4	8.1
Other Nondurable Goods	6.6	6.6	6.5

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	$231.87	$225.55	$217.93
Average Weekly Hours	38.2	38.1	38.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$6.07	$5.92	$5.69

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

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Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN AND ECONOMY LOOKS GOOD

The rate of unemployment took a hearty plunge for the month of April, in the New Bedford L.M.A., falling to a level of 7.6 percent. This is an over-the-month decrease of 1.8 percentage points and comparable to the April, 1980 unemployment rate of 7.3 percent. The figures speak for themselves. The number of people unemployed fell by 21.2 percent in the one month, according to the Current Population Survey, and continued claimants fell by 20 percent, also in one month. The economy moves very fast in these days of rapid communication. It was just a few months ago that high unemployment rates were indicating a level toward continuing unemployment increases. Now with the summer months approaching the reverse appears to be true. Fine tuning of the economy causes shorter and sharper business cycles.

LABOR TURNOVER

One of the functions of D.E.S. research is to measure the monthly turnover rate by labor market area and by industry within the manufacturing division. Studied over a period of time the information can be a good economic indicator. For example, manufacturing employment in New Bedford over the last two years has been turning around. In September, 1978 new hires were greater than layoffs in manufacturing, a sign of a growing economy in New Bedford. Specifically, this was true for all categories of manufacturing. One contrary statistic was that the quit rate was very high, although still not greater than new hires. Now, looking at September, 1980 we see new hires have dropped by 47 percent in the two year interim in manufacturing while layoffs were increasing by 27 percent. Even though this comparision is on just this month's basis the trend is apparent and consistent in New Bedford. One of the reasons for the lack of new hires is that recalls of those formerly laid-off who have preference over new hires, have grown by 176 percent. Meanwhile, the quit rate during the two year time period had decreased by 43 percent. The conclusions from these observations are many; one is that it does appear that employment in the manufacturing sector is on a downswing. This tends to confirm the assumption that both short term and long term employment growth will be in non-manufacturing industries, especially the service industry.

HEALTH SERVICE INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT

Hand in hand with the above paragraph is a new report just released by the Division of Employment Security/Research Department. The title of this report is "Health Service Industries and Employment in Massachusetts". The report stresses the importance of the health service industry in Massachusetts and its future demand. Opportunities in the health field are outlined along with a list of Massachusetts community colleges with programs in health occupations.

HIGH TECH IN MASSACHUSETTS

Another report recently released by D.E.S./Research is "High Technology Employment in Massachusetts and Selected States". Basically the report focuses on the impact hi-tech has had on Massachusetts and a comparison with other hi-tech states and the nation. For a copy of this report and the previous report please write or call the address on the back of the newsletter.

NET HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

In the month of April net high demand job openings listed with the Division of Employment Security in the New Bedford L.M.A. included tool and die makers, engineers, bookkeepers and price goods examiners.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	APR 1981	MAR 1980	APR 1980
LABOR FORCE	80,900	83,100	77,100
Employment	74,700	75,300	71,400
Unemployment	6,200	7,800	5,700
Unemployment Rate 3/	7.6	9.4	7.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	837	663	590
Continued Weeks Claimed	3,061	4,058	3,332

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	5,255	3,012	617	945	3,718
New Applicants (This Month)	804	398	75	140	320

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	APR 1981
Unfilled Openings 2/	176
Openings Received	337

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's) APR 1981	MAR 1981	APR 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	64.2	63.7	65.3
Nonmanufacturing - Total	38.7	38.1	39.2
Construction	1.5	1.3	1.5
Trans. & public utilities	2.6	2.6	2.5
Wholesale & retail trade	11.9	11.6	12.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.0	2.0	2.0
Services & mining	9.9	9.5	9.8
Government	10.8	11.1	11.1

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's) APR 1981	MAR 1981	APR 1980
Manufacturing - Total	25.5	25.6	26.1
Durable Goods - Total	8.3	8.4	8.6
Primary & fab. metals	3.0	3.1	2.9
Machinery (exc. electrical)	INA	INA	INA
Electric equipment	INA	INA	INA
Other durable goods	5.3	5.3	5.7
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.2	17.2	17.5
Textile mill products	2.3	2.2	2.5
Apparel & related products	8.4	8.4	8.2
	6.5	6.6	6.8

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	APR 1981	MAR 1981	APR 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	$233.98	$231.87	$221.18
Average Weekly Hours	37.8	38.2	38.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$6.19	$6.07	$5.73

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester.

NEW BEDFORD LMA

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Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

SURPLUS LABOR UPS UNEMPLOYMENT

The rate of unemployment in the New Bedford LMA rose to a level of 8.3 percent for the month of May. This is an increase of seven-tenths of a percentage point over last month and four-tenths of a percentage point over last year at this time. Historically the unemployment rate decreases from April to May, yet as recently as last year the rate increased by one half of a percentage point during the same time period. There are several reasons for the rise in unemployment. One is that according to the Current Population Survey the number of people unemployed, in the New Bedford Labor Market Area, increased by 9.8 percent from April to May. Secondly, initial claims registered at the Division of Employment Security New Bedford office were higher in May than in any previous month this year. Finally, May is the month that high school and college graduates hit the labor market and drive up the supply of labor.

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

A new program from the Federal Government now sets aside a large portion of the Defense Logistics Agency's purchasing budget to be allocated to industries located in labor surplus areas. Small businesses will be the first to benefit from this preference program. The cities and towns that qualify in this area are New Bedford, Freetown, Lakeville, and Rochester. This list is effective from June 1, 1981 through May 31, 1982.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT

The city of New Bedford has been recently granted a U.D.A.G. award for the project Plumber's Supply Building. These funds will be used for the restoration and rehabilitation of a vacant commercial building in the Waterfront Historic District to obtain 32 market rate apartments, related commercial space, and street improvements in New Bedford. U.D.A.G. applications that have been submitted for consideration are the Old Colonly Center, otherwise known as "Superblock"; the Sheraton-Shaler Hotel, which will include a new 174 room hotel complex and 52 condominiums, a 184 car underground garage, and restaurant, banquet, and commercial facilities, and also, the related rehabilitation and restoration of the Delta Electric Building into 31 luxury apartments.

JOBS-WAGES ARE UP, NUMBERS ARE DOWN

The April 1981 Job Bank information has been released and the results are as follows. In general, wages in the New Bedford LMA have increased, from April, 1980 to April, 1981 by 33 percent. Granted that inflation ran at 12 percent during the same time period, but another factor leading to the increase in wages is the decrease in the number of jobs available: that figure decreased by 56 percent during the same time period. Usually when jobs are cut back it is the lower paying jobs that are the first to go. A breakout of wages by industry for the month of April, 1981 is as follows. Manufacturing wages averaged $11,299 with durable goods at $12,112 and non-durable's at $9,939. Construction wages averaged $10,244 with special trade workers at $11,440 and general construction wages at $7,800. Retail trade workers were offered an average wage of $7,692. Service workers average salary was $8,569. Keep in mind that these are the offered starting wages; actual wages would be higher.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

In the month of April, applicant surplus occupations in Job Matching Service offices in the New Bedford LMA were cashiers, sales clerks, teachers (elementary and secondary), managers, construction workers, and production machine operators.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	MAY 1981	APR 1981	MAY 1980
LABOR FORCE	81,500	80,900	81,000
Employment	74,700	74,700	74,600
Unemployment	6,800	6,200	6,400
Unemployment Rate 3/	8.3	7.6	7.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	844	759	766
Continued Weeks Claimed	2,561	3,061	2,707

1/ By Place of Residence 2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	5,387	3,139	636	951	3,700
New Applicants (This Month)	973	437	119	156	375

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	MAY 1981
Unfilled Openings 2/	136
Openings Received	308

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	MAY 1981	APR 1981	MAY 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	64.6	64.2	65.4
Nonmanufacturing - Total	39.1	38.7	39.4
Construction	1.6	1.5	1.6
Trans. & public utilities	2.7	2.6	2.5
Wholesale & retail trade	12.2	11.9	12.6
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.0	2.0	2.0
Services & mining	10.0	9.9	9.9
Government	10.6	10.8	10.8

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	MAY 1981	APR 1981	MAY 1980
Manufacturing - Total	25.5	25.5	26.0
Durable Goods - Total	8.3	8.3	8.5
Primary & fab. metals	3.0	3.0	3.0
Machinery (exc. electrical)	INA	INA	INA
Electric equipment	INA	INA	INA
Other durable goods	5.3	5.3	5.5
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.2	17.2	17.5
Textile mill products	2.3	2.3	2.5
Apparel & related products	8.4	8.4	8.2
Other Nondurable Goods	6.5	6.5	6.8

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	MAY 1981	APR 1981	MAY 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	$239.90	$233.98	$216.22
Average Weekly Hours	38.2	37.8	37.8
Average Hourly Earnings	$6.28	$6.19	$5.72

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

LABOR AREA RESEARCH PUBLICATION

EMPLOYMENT INCREASES OVER THE YEAR

The rate of unemployment remained consistent at a level of 8.4 percent for the month of June. Last month's rate was 8.3 percent and last year (June, 1980) the rate of unemployment for the New Bedford LMA was 9.2 percent. The difference in rates over the year is substantial and deserves a certain amount of attention.

The disparity in the monthly rates does not specifically indicate that employment is better this year than last. Granted employment is up 3 percent and unemployment is down 8.2 percent, however, this is the first month since January where the unemployment rate, for the month, is lower than the same month in the previous year. It is difficult to develop a trend of employment on a month to month basis. A six month average is more revealing. The unemployment rate for the first six months of 1980 averaged 8.6 percent, while the unemployment rate for the first six months of 1981 averaged 9.0 percent. The figures speak for themselves. On the average, unemployment is higher this year than last year.

A FLY IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The unemployment rate is made up of many components one of them being the number of people who claim for benefits at the local D.E.S. office. The claimants are then broken down into initial claimants (first time), or continued claimants (claiming past the first week). What is unusual is that continued claims are running about 4 percent lower for the first six months of this year as opposed to the first six months of 1980. In light of the higher unemployment rate for 1981, the level of continued claimants is somewhat confusing. One explanation for this is that New Bedford is not an area of hard-core, long term unemployment. Rather, it is made of a high number of claimants on short term unemployment. This is termed high frequency low velocity. A check of initial claimants reveals that they are in fact averaging higher in 1981 than in 1980. This would contribute to higher unemployment rates in 1981 vs. 1980.

The phenomenon of high frequency low velocity unemployment puts New Bedford's unemployment into a nutshell. It is no surprise to learn that New Bedford consistently has the highest unemployment rate in the state. This is due, in a great part, to the industrial make up of the area where an employee is laid off for a short period and then recalled for employment. This tends to artificially drive up the rate of unemployment.

WHAT'S TO COME

Generally speaking the local economy is in good shape; although it could be better it still could be worse. The area is constantly expanding and improving its facilities, which tends to uplift the entire economy. However, there is bad news. It now appears that interest rates are going to remain high in an effort to reduce inflation. This will retard economic growth and increase unemployment. Already the effects of Proposition 2½ are being felt as school teachers and other local employment workers are laid off. This along with the CETA - Public Service Employee's, who were thrown into the ranks of the unemployed earlier this year, will make meaningful employment hard to come by.

NET HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

In the month of June hard-to-fill job openings listed with the Division of Employment Security in the New Bedford LMA included manufacturing engineer, licensed electricians, piece-goods examiner, and tool and die makers.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	JUNE '81	MAY '81	JUNE '80
LABOR FORCE	82,100	81,500	81,100
Employment	75,200	74,700	73,600
Unemployment	6,900	6,800	7,500
Unemployment Rate 3/	8.4	8.3	9.2
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	679	844	739
Continued Weeks Claimed	2,413	2,561	3,108

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	5,530	3,273	689	920	3,690
New Applicants (This Month)	885	437	115	101	335

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	JUNE '81
Unfilled Openings 2/	162
Openings Received	306

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JUNE '81	MAY '81	JUNE '80
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	64.8	64.6	65.2
Nonmanufacturing - Total	39.1	39.1	39.4
Construction	1.7	1.6	1.7
Trans. & public utilities	2.9	2.7	2.7
Wholesale & retail trade	12.0	12.2	12.5
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.0	2.0	2.1
Services & mining	10.1	10.0	9.9
Government	10.4	10.6	10.5

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JUNE '81	MAY '81	JUNE '80
Manufacturing - Total	25.7	25.5	25.8
Durable Goods - Total	8.4	8.3	8.3
Primary & fab. metals	3.1	3.0	3.0
Machinery (exc. electrical)	INA	INA	INA
Electric equipment	INA	INA	INA
Other durable goods	5.3	5.3	5.3
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.3	17.2	17.5
Textile mill products	2.2	2.3	2.4
Apparel & related products	8.5	8.4	8.3
Other nondurable goods	6.6	6.5	6.8

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	JUNE '81	MAY '81	JUNE '80
Average Weekly Earnings	$243.07	$239.90	$212.63
Average Weekly Hours	38.4	38.2	37.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$6.33	$6.28	$5.67

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

LABOR AREA RESEARCH PUBLICATION

JULY AS USUAL

The rate of unemployment rose to a level of 9.7 percent for the month of July. This is an increase of 1.4 percentage points over last months level of 8.3 and slightly higher than July 1980's level of 9.5 percent. The month of July is not a good measure of employment trends. Many areas of manufacturing employment close down in total for one or two weeks. Employees who have been laid off, even if they expect recall, can apply for benefits during the time they are unemployed and they are counted as unemployed. Another log on the fire is that more individuals were laid off this July due to the effects of Proposition 2½. All in all its hard to tell which way the rate of unemployment is moving based on the month of July. The month of August will be a key month. The rate usually drops. If it should not then unemployment is becoming a problem.

WAGES IN MANUFACTURING

Another facet of the mission of the Division of Employment Security/Research Department is to record the average hourly earnings of manufacturing employees. The result for June, 1981 are as follows. In manufacturing the average hourly earning was $6.33 per hour up from $5.67 a year ago, an increase of almost 12 percent. Durable goods wages averaged $6.95 an hour, up from $6.03 a year ago. A subsector of durable goods primary and fabricated metals, shows an increase in wages of 13 percent of $7.32 up from $6.47. Nondurable wages were markedly lower than those in durable goods. In total nondurable average hourly earnings were $6.05 an hour up from $5.68. The subsectors of nondurable goods textile and apparel are as follows. Textile wages averaged $5.47 up from $5.04 and apparel $5.83 up from $5.44. Not only is the difference in wages between durable and nondurable goods apparent but durable goods wages increased by 15 percent over the one year time period while nondurable goods wages increased by 7 percent.

UNION ACTIVITY PROMOTES PRODUCTIVITY

If any criticism is leveled at New Bedford it is the complaint that union activity in the area is a deterent to an employer who wants to locate in the area. Local data indicates that unionizaton may not be a deterent to productivity.

A rough calculation estimates that 27 percent of employment in the New Bedford LMA is union membership, the state of Massachusetts is 27.7 percent and the National figure 26.9 percent. The area with the lowest amount of union activity is the South at 17 percent, although this figure is rising. Compare unionization rates with time last due to work stoppages provides an interesting regional analysis. Although no figures are available for New Bedford the State rates a low 5 percent and the South at 16 percent. The manufacturing quit rate in New Bedford, May 1980, was 1.5 per 100 employees. During the same time period the rate for Massachusetts was 1.9, the nation 2.1 and the South 2.6. This is not to say that union activity will increase productivity but we can conclude that the lack of union activity does not mean increased productivity.

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION IS NOW AVAILABLE

The Annual Planning Information Report, Fiscal Year 1982, New Bedford Labor Market Area has been published and is now available. In it is included Employment Developments and Outlook by Industry Projected through Fiscal Year 1982, Trends and Outlook, Individuals in Need of Manpower Services, Labor Supply and Demand Imbalanced and Employment and Training Programs. For a copy consult the back of this letter for the mailing address and telephone number.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

In the month of July, applicant surplus occupations in Job Matching Service offices in the New Bedford LMA were secretary, general clerk, bank teller, waitress, security guard and electronics assembler.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
LABOR FORCE	81,300	82,100	83,800
Employment	73,400	75,200	75,800
Unemployment	7,900	6,900	8,000
Unemployment Rate 3/	9.7	8.4	9.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	886	679	909
Continued Weeks Claimed	3,714	2,413	4,470

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	6,034	3,607	669	1,086	4,022
New Applicants (This Month)	1,316	665	93	302	760

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	JULY '81
Unfilled Openings 2/	206
Openings Received	615

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	62.7	64.8	62.9
Nonmanufacturing - Total	37.8	39.1	39.5
Construction	1.8	1.7	1.8
Trans. & public utilities	2.7	2.9	2.4
Wholesale & retail trade	11.6	12.0	12.1
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.0	2.0	2.0
Services & mining	10.1	10.1	10.0
Government	9.6	10.4	11.2

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
Manufacturing - Total	24.9	25.7	23.4
Durable Goods - Total	8.2	8.4	8.0
Primary & fab. metals	2.9	3.1	2.9
Machinery (exc. electrical)	INA	INA	INA
Electric equipment	INA	INA	INA
Other durable goods	5.3	5.3	5.1
Nondurable Goods - Total	16.7	17.3	15.4
Textile mill products	2.0	2.2	2.2
Apparel & related products	8.3	8.5	6.8
Other Nondurable Goods	6.4	6.6	6.4

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
Average Weekly Earnings	$234.62	$243.07	$214.64
Average Weekly Hours	37.6	38.4	37.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$6.24	$6.33	$5.77

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

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New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS

The rate of unemployment fell by one half of a percentage point over the month to an ending level of 9.2 percent. According to the Current Population Survey unemployment figures dropped by 2.5 percent while employment figures rose by 3.9 percent over last month. Last year at this time the rate of unemployment was 7.3 percent.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - JULY, 1981

The Consumer Price Index is an absolute measure of the change in price levels from one time period to another. The percent difference between the changes is commonly referred to as the rate of inflation. The percentages given represent the change from July 1980 to July 1981. All items in total show an increase of 10.5 percent. In May the figure was 11.3, March showed 12.0 and January 12.8. Food and beverage prices increased by 5.4 percent over the year. Food at home increased by 6.9 percent while food away from home increased by 2.6 percent. Housing costs rose by 13.2 percent with rent up 8.3 percent and homeownership up 16.1 percent. Fuel and other utilities are up 16.9 percent in total. A further breakdown reveals fuel oil up 24.3 and gas and electricity up 11.3 percent. Apparel and upkeep were up 5.9 percent, transportation up 13.3 percent, medical care up 8.3 percent, and entertainment up 7.6 percent. Services less medical care rose 13.0 percent.

In measuring the CPI from May to June of this year some levels experienced actual decreases. Some of these were fruits and vegetables down 5.6 percent, women's and girls' apparel down 3.4 percent, gas and electricity down 4.7 percent and apparel commodities down 1.5 percent.

ENERGY COST

Energy prices and indexes are compiled in conjunction with the Consumer Price Index. All prices are collected monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics representatives except electricity prices, which are collected by the Department of Energy. Natural gas, fuel oil and electricity are measured in different ways, but, if converted to British Thermal Units on a cost basis, a comparison can be made. In order to produce 100,000B.T.U.'s it would require 62 cents worth of natural gas, 91 cents of fuel oil and $2.22 worth of electricity. The results are somewhat obvious. Even with the decontrol of natural gas it will be a long time before the price of gas and oil are the same.

JOB BANK - JUNE 1981 vs SEPTEMBER 1980

Job Bank is a service to employers where they can place jobs with DES local offices in an attempt to find qualified job applicants. The use of the aggregate information is helpful in determining wage levels and the amount of activity in an area. The following is a comparison of occupational wages from September 1980 to June 1981. The wages presented here are the minimum starting wages. For all occupations wages have risen from $8,552 a year to $8,960 or an increase of 4.8 percent. Professional, technical and managerial occupations have risen by $143 to a level of $12,059 a year. Clerical and sales occupations have increased from $7,786 a year to $7,926 a year. Service occupation wages have risen from $3.51 to $4.83 an hour or an increase of 14.8 percent. Processing occupation wages at $5.98 an hour, up from $5.35 an hour. Structural occupations have increased by 19.5 percent or .94 cents. The figures being $4.81 to $5.75 an hour.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	August 1981	July 1981	August 1980
LABOR FORCE	84,000	81,100	82,700
Employment	76,300	73,400	76,700
Unemployment	7,700	7,900	6,000
Unemployment Rate 3/	9.2	9.7	7.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	687	886	533
Continued Weeks Claimed	2,753	3,714	2,604

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	5,601	3,510	491	970	3,761
New Applicants (This Month)	599	290	65	80	274

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	August 1981
Unfilled Openings 2/	158
Openings Received	372

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	August 1981	July 1981	August 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	63.5	62.7	64.5
Nonmanufacturing - Total	38.1	37.8	39.6
Construction	1.8	1.8	1.8
Trans. & public utilities	3.0	2.7	2.6
Wholesale & retail trade	11.7	11.6	12.2
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.0	2.0	2.0
Services & mining	10.1	10.1	10.0
Government	9.5	9.6	11.0

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	August 1981	July 1981	August 1980
Manufacturing - Total	25.4	24.9	24.9
Durable Goods - Total	8.3	8.2	7.6
Primary & fab. metals	3.1	2.9	2.8
Machinery (exc. electrical)	--	--	--
Electric equipment	--	--	--
Other durable goods	5.2	5.3	4.8
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.1	16.7	17.3
Textile mill products	2.1	2.0	2.3
Apparel & related products	8.4	8.3	8.4
Other Nondurable Goods	6.6	6.4	6.6

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	August 1981	July 1981	August 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	$231.94	$234.62	$211.12
Average Weekly Hours	38.4	37.6	37.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$6.04	$6.24	$5.66

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester.

NEW BEDFORD LMA

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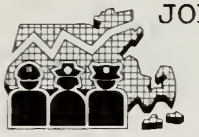
JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS SLIGHTLY

The rate of unemployment fell slightly over the month of September to a level of 9.1 percent for the New Bedford Labor Market Area. According to the Current Population Survey the number of people unemployed fell by 336 or 4.4 percent while employment fell by 2,485 or 3.3 percent. One of the reasons for the decrease in unemployment is the return of school teachers and working age children back to school. The decrease in employment can be attributed to the decline of the overall economy. Last year at this time the New Bedford LMA unemployment rate was 7.5 percent. The rise in the rate of unemployment can be traced to the national economy which has carried an unemployment rate of about 7.3 percent for the last 12 months and shows no signs of lessening.

STATE EMPLOYMENT VS LOCAL EMPLOYMENT-1980

One of the ways of looking at employment is to break industries out by their percentage share of total employment and compare them to other areas of employment. In the New Bedford LMA the percent share is as follows. Total government employment was 14.6 percent of the total with Federal 0.8, State 3.7 and Local 10.1. In the private sector agriculture accounted for 3.5 percent; construction 2.4; transportation and public utilities 3.8; trade 19.2; finance, insurance and real estate 3.0; and services 13.9 percent. The one sector in New Bedford that has the largest percentage of employment is manufacturing, 39.4 percent. In fact the LMA has the highest ratio of manufacturing employment to total employment than on any other major LMA in the state. A similar comparison of statewide employment for 1980 is as follows. Total government employment was 14.9 with federal 2.3; state 3.2 and local 9.4. In the private sector agricultural employment accounted for 0.6 percent; construction 3.0; manufacturing 26.0; transportation and public utilities 4.5; trade 22.2; finance, insurance and real estate 5.9 and services 23.0 percent.

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

The employment basis for the rate of unemployment is the Bureau of Labor Statistics 790 Monthly Report on Employment, Hours and Earnings. It is a sampling of employment in the LMA in which estimates of monthly employment are made. This month's results are on the back of this page. A comparison of the current month with the current month a year ago can give us an up-to-date indication of which way the economy is moving. Total employment has fallen by 500 jobs or 0.8 of a percent. These losses are not to be found in manufacturing. To the contrary manufacturing employment has grown by 400 jobs or 1.6 percent. According to the 790 report all manufacturing gains have been in the durable goods sector, with primary and fabricated metals up 6.7 percent. Nondurable employment has remained steady over the year, at a level of 17,300 employed with textiles employment constant and apparel up slightly.

In the nonmanufacturing sector the industry with the largest losses was government. Over the year this sector lost 1,100 jobs or 10.7 percent of its employment. This can be directly attributed to the effects of Proposition 2½. Other industries in the nonmanufacturing sector have had scattered results. For while construction has remained constant, transportation, communication and public utilities and services have increased and wholesale and retail trade and finance, insurance and real estate have decreased.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

In the month of September, applicant surplus occupations in the Job Matching Service office in the New Bedford LMA were cashiers, sales clerks, construction workers, and machine operators.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	Sep. 1981	Aug. 1981	Sep. 1980
LABOR FORCE	81,200	84,000	80,300
Employment	73,800	76,300	74,300
Unemployment	7,400	7,700	6,000
Unemployment Rate 3/	9.1	9.2	7.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	649	687	520
Continued Weeks Claimed	2,921	2,753	2,137

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	5,689	3,441	582	988	3,737
New Applicants (This Month)	787	326	114	104	357

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	Sep. 1981
Unfilled Openings 2/	275
Openings Received	447

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Sep. 1981	Aug. 1981	Sep. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	63.2	63.5	63.7
Nonmanufacturing - Total	37.6	38.1	38.5
Construction	1.7	1.8	1.7
Trans. & public utilities	3.0	3.0	2.6
Wholesale & retail trade	11.8	11.7	12.1
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.9	2.0	2.0
Services & mining	10.0	10.1	9.8
Government	9.2	9.5	10.3

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Sep. 1981	Aug. 1981	Sep. 1980
Manufacturing - Total	25.6	25.4	25.2
Durable Goods - Total	8.3	8.3	7.9
Primary & fab. metals	3.2	3.1	3.0
Machinery (exc. electrical)	INA	INA	INA
Electric equipment	INA	INA	INA
Other durable goods	5.1	5.2	4.9
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.3	17.1	17.3
Textile mill products	2.2	2.1	2.2
Apparel & related products	8.5	8.4	8.4
Other Nondurable Goods	6.6	6.6	6.7

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Sep. 1981	Aug. 1981	Sep. 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	$234.62	$239.62^{R}	$207.43
Average Weekly Hours	37.3	38.4	36.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$6.29	$6.24^{R}	$5.73

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS. These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester.

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Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

THE RECESSION BEGINS

The unemployment rate for the month of October rose to a level of 9.7 percent. Last month the rate was 9.1 and a year ago, October, the unemployment rate was 8.0 percent. The number of people unemployed increased by 11 percent from September to October while employment increased by 3 percent.

Unemployment rates are high now and, if past trends hold true, they will get even higher into the winter months. The rate usually peaks in January and decreases into the spring. This trend will probably hold true with the recession declining into the summer months. A word of note, however, the unemployment ratio will not be as low as they have been in the past. The key is interest rates and how far they decline. Although there has been a downward movement the interest rates should remain in the area of 12 to 14 percent. This range is low enough to allow investment, and get the economy rolling yet high enough to keep the rate of inflation down from the high double digit range. Jobs will be caught in the squeeze.

THE RECESSION WILL END - ADVICE TO THE JOBSEEKER

We should clarify a point right here. The economy is fickle. The economy is in flux The economy is always in flux. Even the Old Testament of the Bible speaks of economic good times and bad. When Joseph was in Egypt he foresaw seven years of fat and seven years of lean. Ever since the days of barter and trade the world of economics has been with us. The key is to make economics work for you, to place yourself in such a position as to isolate yourself, as best as possible from economic downturns. To be completely isolated from economic downturns is an impossibility. Our world and the world of economics are one and the same. Individuals should focus on occupations that have a long range demand and will provide economic security in the future. No one can foresee the future. Who knows what will be happening 10, 20 or 30 years from now. Will your occupation be a strong and desirable one in the open market? Or will you still be looking for economic security? It is a very important decision.

Through economic research some occupations have become apparent in their demand. The number one demand occupation in this state at this time is engineering. Computer specialists still retain a high demand. Registered nurses, LPNs and nurses aides have a high demand generated through the hospital industry. Scientists, mathematicians, accountants, bookkeepers, secretaries, cooks all generate a high demand and receive good wages, because they have one thing in common. They have a skill that was taught to them, which they have built upon through experience and can transfer to another job. If you have a job where the work you do is only applied to that position then you have not learned a transferable skill. After ten years on that job you then have ten years of devalued experience. If you are unsure as to what is the occupation for you, you might look at the different occupations around you. What occupations present a long range demand? For vocational counseling, visit your Job Matching Service Counselor. Then once you have found one, then pursue it. Invest in yourself. Sacrifice time and money into education. You can never lose with education and continued education.

PRESS RELEASES

We would appreciate being added to companies' mailing lists for press releases that would have any bearing on the number of Massachusetts workers; for example, mass recruitment, plant expansion, plant consolidation, and layoffs. Please consult the address on the back of the Profile.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	Oct. 1981	Sep. 1981	Oct. 1980
LABOR FORCE	84,500	81,400	82,700
Employment	76,300	74,000	76,100
Unemployment	8,200	7,400	6,600
Unemployment Rate 3/	9.7	9.1	8.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	631	649	661
Continued Weeks Claimed	2,822	2,921	2,651

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	Information Not Available				
New Applicants (This Month)					

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	Oct. 1981
Unfilled Openings 2/	
Openings Received	
Information Not Available	

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Oct. 1981	Sep. 1981	Oct. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	63.4	63.2	63.9
Nonmanufacturing - Total	38.3	37.6	38.8
Construction	1.7	1.7	1.7
Trans. & public utilities	2.9	3.0	2.6
Wholesale & retail trade	11.6	11.8	12.0
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.0	1.9	2.0
Services & mining	9.8	10.0	9.6
Government	10.3	9.2	10.9

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Oct. 1981	Sep. 1981	Oct. 1980
Manufacturing - Total	25.1	25.6	25.1
Durable Goods - Total	8.1	8.3	8.0
Primary & fab. metals	3.1	3.2	3.1
Machinery (exc. electrical)	--	--	--
Electric equipment	--	--	--
Other durable goods	5.0	5.1	4.9
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.0	17.3	17.1
Textile mill products	2.2	2.2	2.0
Apparel & related products	8.3	8.5	8.3
Other Nondurable Goods	6.5	6.6	6.8

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings Average Weekly Hours Average Hourly Earnings	Information Not Available		

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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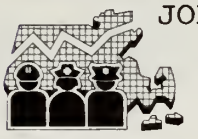
JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



TEMPORARY RELIEF

The rate of unemployment fell from October to November from 9.7 percent to 9.3 percent. For the rate to fall over these two months is unusual, however, the state rate also fell by almost a full percentage point which would be an indicator of the local area rates. Unemployment rates in all the major labor market areas, with the exception of Fall River, had noticeable declines.

THE YEAR 1975 vs 1982

Present indicators are showing that this recession will last through this winter with unemployment rate peaking in January or February and slowly declining from there. This will be the worst recession we have had since 1975 but nowhere as bad. The recession of 1975 was a major recession for the New Bedford LMA. The unemployment rate for the New Bedford LMA in January of 1975 was 16.2 percent with almost 13,000 people unemployed. The state rate peaked during that year at 12.3 percent and the national at 9.0. Keep in mind the present national rate is 8.4 percent seasonally adjusted, with states like Michigan at 12.5 percent and Ohio at 11.4 percent. These states are suffering a major recession.

HOURS AND EARNINGS REVISED

The hours worked and wages earned for manufacturing production workers in 1979 and 1980 have been revised to the 1980 benchmark. A comparison of the two years is as follows. For total manufacturing the hourly wage rose from $5.36 an hour to $5.75 an hour or an increase of 7 percent. The average weekly hours decreased from 38.8 hours per week to 37.2 hours per week for a decrease of 4 percent. Overall the average weekly earnings increased from $207.97 a week to $213.90 a week. Durable good manufacturing followed the same trend as manufacturing for, as the average hourly wage rose from $5.57 an hour to $5.93 an hour, the average weekly hours fell from 41.8 per week to 38.6 per week. The exception here is that wages in total decreased from $232.83 a week to $228.90 a week. The activity in nondurable goods gave the following results. The average hourly wage rose from $5.24 an hour to $5.67 an hour from 1979 to 1980 while the average weekly hours fell from 37.2 to 36.6 hours per week. The apparel industry had the lowest average weekly hours of the industries surveyed at 35.1 hours per week while textile has the lowest average hourly earnings at $5.03 per hour. Textiles had the highest average weekly hours of 41.4 while the primary and fabricated metals industry had the highest average hourly earnings of $6.30. Please keep in mind these are the revised average weekly hours and earnings for production workers in manufacturing.

In September of 1981 the average weekly earnings of a manufacturing production worker in the New Bedford LMA was $234.62, in the state of Massachusetts it was $276.44, and for the nation it was $318.67.

HOT OFF THE PRESSES

The Job Market Research Department has recent publications available: 1. Job Opening Survey in Massachusetts 1980 a comprehensive analysis of the data developed during the second phase of the JOS Survey; 2. Occupational Profile of Selected Manufacturing Industries in Mass. 1980; 3. An Occupational Profile of Hospital Employment in Mass. 1980 which provides more detailed analysis than any prior OES survey reports; and 4. 2.5 Million Jobs, Variety and Distribution of Occupations in Mass. 1978 a continuation of our efforts to provide data users with information from the most current Industry-Occupation Matrix. 5. Employment and Wages State Summary 1980; and 6. Employment Wages Mass. SMSA's Labor Areas 1980 - a publication containing annual payroll totals, average annual employment, and average annual wages for Mass. and the ten major labor areas by major industrial divisions and selected industry groups.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1981	Nov. 1980
LABOR FORCE	85,700	84,500	81,800
Employment	77,700	76,300	76,400
Unemployment	8,000	8,200	5,400
Unemployment Rate 3/	9.3	9.7	6.6
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	1,233	631	798
Continued Weeks Claimed	3,106	2,822	2,924

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	6,022	3,366	692	1,041	3,627
New Applicants (This Month)	972	411	120	142	358

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	Nov. 1981
Unfilled Openings 2/	211
Openings Received	129

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1981	Nov. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	64.1	63.4	64.2
Nonmanufacturing - Total	38.7	38.3	39.0
Construction	1.6	1.7	1.6
Trans. & public utilities	2.9	2.9	2.6
Wholesale & retail trade	11.9	11.6	12.2
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.0	2.0	2.0
Services & mining	9.8	9.8	9.6
Government	10.5	10.3	11.0

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1981	Nov. 1980
Manufacturing - Total	25.4	25.1	25.2
Durable Goods - Total	8.3	8.1	8.2
Primary & fab. metals	3.1	3.1	3.1
Machinery (exc. electrical)	---	---	---
Electric equipment	---	---	---
Other durable goods	5.2	5.0	5.1
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.1	17.0	17.0
Textile mill products	2.3	2.2	2.1
Apparel & related products	8.5	8.3	8.3
Other Nondurable Goods	6.3	6.5	6.6

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1981	Nov. 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	$229.40	$228.12	$209.55
Average Weekly Hours	39.5	35.7	35.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$6.39	$6.39	$5.97

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester.

NEW BEDFORD LMA

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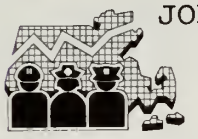
Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



UNEMPLOYMENT STILL INCREASING

The New Bedford Labor Market Area rate of unemployment rose to a level of 10.9 percent for the month of December. This is an increase of 1.6 percentage points over last month's rate of 9.3 percent and considerably higher than the December rate last year of 6.2 percent. Although the 6.2 percent was somewhat low for that particular time of the year there can be no doubt about the present figures, which show that unemployment is a very serious problem.

December was not a good month for employment. There were many instances where manufacturers closed down earlier than usual and stayed closed right through New Year's. The retail stores, which usually hire on extra workers to handle the Christmas shopping, were reluctant to do so this year. If past trends hold true, the rates of unemployment should peak in January or February. Keep in mind that right now the key to the economy is interest rates. It is assumed that interest rates will become lower than the present level which will lead to an improved economy which in turn will lead to lower levels of unemployment. If in fact interest rates do not decline or even go higher than past trends will not hold true. If companies cannot get funds to reinvest or if reinvestment becomes more and more expensive than employment will suffer.

ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

The December figures now complete calendar year 1981. The New Bedford Labor Market Area had annualized figures as follows: civilian labor force 82,983, unemployment 75,245, unemployed 7,738 for an unemployment rate of 9.3 percent for 1981. The annual average for 1980 was 8.1 percent. Employment figures are currently undergoing annual revisions for 1981 and 1980, and, although the numbers will change, the actual rate should not vary by much. Whenever using employment or unemployment figures keep in mind that they are revised annually. For the municipalities that make up the labor market area the annualized unemployment rates are as follows: the city of New Bed ford, 9.8 percent; the towns of Acushnet 9.2 percent; Dartmouth 7.8 percent; Farhaven 8.5 percent.

The December issue of Massachusetts Profiles for the New Bedford Labor Market area is the last regular issue. Due to severe cuts in federal funds, the Division of Employment Security regretfully announces that it must terminate the following publications: Massachusetts Cities and Towns, Massachusetts Trends, Massachusetts Labor Turnover in Manufacturing, and Massachusetts Profiles for each of the 10 major labor market areas in the state.

The statistical data contained in these publications will be available in the Job Market Research library on the second floor of the Hurley Building. Some of the statistical information contained in these publications will be available during 1982 in a revised Massachusetts Employment Review publication. If you would like to be put on this mailing list,please write to the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security, Job Market Research Publications, Charles F. Hurley Building, Government Center, Boston, MA 02114. Be sure to include your complete address and zip code. The information you provide us will be fed into our new computer program which will enable us to deliver information more efficiently. If you know of others who would like to be on our new mailing list, please have them send us their addresses.

If any additional funding becomes available during the year, we will add to our list of publications on a selective basis. Your comments on the value of and uses for the publications you have been receiving would help us to focus our decisions.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1981	Dec. 1980
LABOR FORCE	86,700	85,700	82,000
Employment	77,300	77,700	76,900
Unemployment	9,400	8,000	5,100
Unemployment Rate 3/	10.9	9.3	6.2
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	1,289	1,233	1,275
Continued Weeks Claimed	4,526	3,106	3,109

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants					
New Applicants ..... (This Month)	I N A				

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	
Unfilled Openings 2/	
Openings Received	I N A

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1981	Dec. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	64.5	64.1	64.4
Nonmanufacturing - Total	39.1	38.7	39.1
Construction	1.5	1.6	1.5
Trans. & public utilities	2.9	2.9	2.5
Wholesale & retail trade	12.2	11.9	12.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.0	2.0	2.0
Services & mining	9.8	9.8	9.5
Government	10.7	10.5	11.3

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1981	Dec. 1980
Manufacturing - Total	25.4	25.4	25.3
Durable Goods - Total	8.3	8.3	8.2
Primary & fab. metals	3.1	3.1	3.1
Machinery (exc. electrical)	--	--	--
Electric equipment	--	--	--
Other durable goods	5.2	5.2	5.2
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.1	17.1	17.1
Textile mill products	2.2	2.3	2.1
Apparel & related products	8.4	8.5	8.3
Other Nonduragle Goods	6.5	6.3	6.7

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1981	Dec. 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	$235.01	$229.40	$230.06
Average Weekly Hours	36.1	35.9	38.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 6.51	$ 6.39	$ 5.96

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester.

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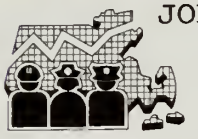
Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



THE ECONOMY STABILIZES

The rate of unemployment for the New Bedford LMA was 13.3 percent in April, 13 percent in May and 13.1 percent in June. Employment remained fairly stable in April and May only to increase in the month of June. This picked up the labor force to its highest level for the year.

There appears to be a new development in the economy and the key-jork is stabilization. The high unemployment rates for this year wer in February and January with rates of 14.1 and 13.6 percent. This latest quarter shows us unemployment rates that remained relatively stable. Whenever the economy stabilizes it usually means that a change in direction is about to take place. It could be that the recession is showing signs of leveling off. There other positive signs. Specifically, the amount of people claiming unemployment insurance benefits has decreased from the first to second quarter. Initial claims have decreased by 17 percent and continued claims have decreased by 30 percent on the average. Another positive sign is that interest rates are beginning to soften. This is of primary importance if the economy is going to get started. There is one qualification to this discussion and that is the July rates of unemployment will be quite high probably the highest for the entire year. We expect this, we know a seasonal high is coming. Manufacturers have takne the advantage of the traditional July shutdown and have extended it to enable a depletion of inventories. This will cause local unemployment rates to soar. However, from July onward, the economy nationally should slowly get better which will gradually trickle down to New Bedford economy. The question now is how quickly and to what extent will the economy recover.

LABOR MARKET SURPLUS AREAS, REVISED

Employers located in eligible labor surplus areas, as determined by the Department of Labor, and who meet other criteria, are entitled to preference in bidding on Federal procurement contracts. The purpose of the labor surplus area procurement preference is to help guide a portion of the procurement dollars into those areas where people are in most severe economic need, e.g.,areas with the highest unemployment. The areas in Southeastern Massachusetts that qualify are Acushnet, Bourne, Brockton, Carver, Dighton, Edgartown, Fall River, Falmouth, Freetown, Harwich, Lakeville, Mashpee, New Bedford, Orleans, Provincetown, Rochester, Taunton, Sandwich, Wareham, Wellfleet, and Westport.

1981 EMPLOYMENT DATA AVAILABLE

Employment and wages have recently been completed for the New Bedford LMA for calendar year 1981 and are available on a quarterly basis. An average employment, including government,was 65,214 with an average wage of $12,405.

For 1980 the annual average employment was 65,552 with salary average of $11,545. In 1981 the quarter with the highest employment level was April, May and June, second quarter, with 67,561 jobs. The quarter with the second highest employment level was October, November, December, fourth quarter, with 65,160. First quarter, January, February and March, and third quarter, July, August and September averaged employment close to 64,000. The month of July had the lowest employment figures for the entire year. Please keep in mind these figures are subject to revision.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A new publication entitled Trade Adjument Act: Impact on on the Massachusetts Economy is now available. This publication is a study of the Trade Adjustment Act of 1974 (TAA) and employment affected during the 5-year period, January 1975 through November 1981. Another new publication is Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate Employment in Massachusetts 1971-1980. This publication contains information on the occupational composition of these industries, structural changes in them over the past 5 years and the effect upon employment and detailed information on the Boston, Springfield, and Worcester Labor Market Areas.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	June 1982	May 1982	April 1982
LABOR FORCE	86.7	84.9	84.6
Employment	75.4	73.9	73.4
Unemployment	11.3	11.0	11.2
Unemployment Rate 3/	13.1	13.0	13.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	751	841	1213
Continued Weeks Claimed	4208	4497	5942

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2,992	1,263	508	384	1016
New Applicants (This Month)	699	377	80	59	212

JOB OPENINGS 1/	June 1982
Unfilled Openings 2/	NA
Openings Received	103

1/ Available During the Month

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	June 1982	May 1982	April 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	63.2	63.0	62.8
Nonmanufacturing - Total	38.2	38.3	38.1
Construction	1.6	1.5	1.3
Trans. & public utilities	2.3	2.3	2.3
Wholesale & retail trade	12.8	12.8	12.6
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.0	2.0	2.1
Services & mining	10.9	10.9	10.8
Government	8.6	8.8	9.0

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	June 1982	May 1982	April 1982
Manufacturing - Total	25.0	24.7	24.7
Durable Goods - Total	8.1	8.1	8.5
Primary & fab. metals	3.1	3.1	3.0
Machinery (exc. electrical)	--	--	--
Electric equipment	--	--	--
Other durable goods	5.0	5.0	5.5
Nondurable Goods - Total	16.9	16.6	16.2
Textile mill products	--	--	--
Apparel & related products	8.3	8.2	7.8
Other Nondurable Goods	8.6	8.4	8.4

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	June 1982	May 1982	April 1982
Average Weekly Earnings	$265.78	$262.36	$255.84
Average Weekly Hours	39.2	39.1	38.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 6.78	$ 6.71	$ 6.68

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE - MAILING LIST UPDATE

Massachusetts Profiles are available for ten major labor markets in Massachusetts: Boston SMSA, Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg-Leominster, Lawrence-Haverhill, Lowell, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke, and Worcester. They are designed for people who want current regional labor market information for public policy or business decisions. If you wish to CONTINUE to receive Massachusetts Profiles after the end of the calendar year, please specify the Region(s) for which you wish to receive copies by writing to:

Publications Staff
Massachusetts Division of Employment Security
Job Market Research Publications
C.F. Hurley Building
Government Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE RISE

The rate of unemployment rose to a level of 12.7 percent for December. The three (October to December) month average rate of unemployment is 11.2 percent. Levels of employment have been falling, while levels of unemployment have been rising. From November to December the number of people employed fell by 1,500, while the numbers of people unemployed rose by 2,500.

The 1982 average rate of unemployment for the New Bedford LMA was 12.6 percent. The winter months are the worst time of the year for employment: manufacturing slows down, construction slows down, even the fishing industry loses 17 percent of its employment. This year is no exception. If anything, problems are only accentuated by the national recession by driving normal rates up even higher.

The December, January and February months should see the worst part of the recession. Once the spring months arrive the economy should recover. A word of warning, the recovery will be very slow. Rates of unemployment will come down, for the most part, although in some months it will even go up. It took two years for this recession to develop, it could take two years before the recovery is complete.

BLS NEWS RELEASES NOW ELECTRONICALLY

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has begun an electronic news release service that permits persons who are interested in the Bureau's national economic indicators to gain access directly from the computer in which they are stored. Information about electronic news releases is available from the Office of Publications, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. 20212. BLS data summary is available 24 hours a day on (202) 523-9658.

INFLATION DOWN/WAGES UP

From November 1981 to November 1982 the earnings of production workers in manufacturing industries rose by 4.5 percent in the New Bedford Labor Market Area. This represents an increase in hourly wages from $6.39 an hour to $7.01 an hour and a decrease in weekly hours from 35.9 to 34.2. The Consumer Price Index for the Boston area only increased by 3.9 percent during the same time period. Although the comparisons are not strict, the analogy is noteworthy. A breakdown of items involved in the CPI is as follows: food and beverage, up 2.9 percent; housing, up 3.6 percent; apparel and upkeep, up 5.3 percent; transportation, up 1.8 percent; medical care, up 8.1 percent and entertainment, up 7.1 percent. Areas of decrease were energy, down 2.3 percent and property taxes, down 5.9 percent. One item of local interest is the price of women and girls' apparel, up 9.7 percent over the year.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	Dec. 1982	Nov. 1982	Oct. 1982
LABOR FORCE	85.1	84.1	84.7
Employment	74.3	75.8	75.3
Unemployment	10.8	8.3	9.4
Unemployment Rate 3/	12.7	9.8	11.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	3243	849	799
Continued Weeks Claimed	7528	4658	4312

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	3059	1295	616	472	--
New Applicants (This Month)	915	460	108	139	--

JOB OPENINGS 1/	Dec. 1982
Unfilled Openings 2/	INA
Openings Received	182

1/ Available During the Month

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1982	Nov. 1982	Oct. 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	62.2	62.2	62.1
Nonmanufacturing - Total	38.1	37.7	38.0
Construction	1.3	1.4	1.5
Trans. & public utilities	2.2	2.2	2.2
Wholesale & retail trade	12.9	12.8	12.7
Finance. ins. & real estate	2.0	2.0	2.0
Services & mining	10.7	10.6	10.7
Government	9.0	9.1	8.9

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1982	Nov. 1982	Oct. 1982
Manufacturing - Total	24.1	24.5	24.1
Durable Goods - Total	8.0	8.0	8.0
Primary & fab. metals	3.1	3.1	3.1
Machinery (exc. electrical)	--	--	--
Electric equipment	--	--	--
Other durable goods	4.9	4.9	4.9
Nondurable Goods - Total	16.1	16.1	16.1
Textile mill products	--	--	--
Apparel & related products	7.7	7.5	7.6
Other Nondurable Goods	8.4	8.6	8.5

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Dec. 1982	Nov. 1982	Oct. 1982
Average Weekly Earnings	$257.78	$239.74	$245.35
Average Weekly Hours	37.0	34.2	34.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 6.94	$ 7.01	$ 7.03

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES

The rate of unemployment fell to a level of 12.3 percent for the month of March. This is down from the February rate of 12.8 per- and a further decrease from the January high of 13.1 percent. The economy continues to show signs of recovery. According to the labor force by place of residence, levels of employment are increasing and levels of unemployment are decreasing. This,overall, has increased the labor force to a level of 86,700. Wage and salary employment by place of work (on the back of this sheet) also shows positive signs in the economy. In total, nonfarm employment increased by almost 2,000 jobs, with most increases in the nonmanufacturing sector. But the good news is in the durable goods employment of manufacturing. This section of the economy was the focal point of the past recession. The hard goods of manufacturing, auto, and steel, suffered this worst recession. The signs of recovery in this area is a positive sign.

The bad news is that there are still 10,700 people unemployed in the labor market area and well over 5,000 claimants at the New Bedford local office. Fortunately, claims figures have been droping. From January of this year, when the level of continued claimants was 6,177, to an April level of 4,457, the number of claims has fallen by 28 percent. Initial claims, or first time claimants, have fallen from 1,000 in the first week in January to 450 in the last week of April. If this trend continues we could reasonably expect a further decline in the rate of unemployment.

Unemployment Rate for Men Increases

A recent news release from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that for the State, New England and the Nation the rate of unemployment was higher for men than for women. This for the first time since program began in 1976. For the State the rate of unemployment for men was 8.3 percent and 7.4 percent for women.

The number of claimants in the New Bedford area would tend to follow along with the state regional and national trends. In February 1983, out of 5,078 total claimants, 3,263 or 63 percent were male. In manufacturing, 70 percent of the claimants were male. Keep in mind that this is only one month, and several months of data would be necessary for accurate analysis, yet Fall River had 69 percent male claimants and Brockton had 55 percent male claimants.

COMPARISON OF THE UNEMPLOYED FROM THE CENSUS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE DATA

The 1980 Census estimated that 135,310 individuals were unemployed in Massachusetts. Active job seekers not working who were registered with the Employment Service in March 1980 numbered 114,209 (84.4 percent of the individuals identified by the Census). Within the Boston SMSA, the 1980 Census estimated the number of unemployed individuals as of 61,261. The Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) recorded 52,008 unemployed individuals registered with the employment service as of March 31, 1980. This represents 84.9 percent of the unemployed individuals within the Boston SMSA enumerated by the census. Within the Balance of Massachusetts, 74,049 individuals were identified by the Census as unemployed. ESARS data indicates that in March 1980, active DES jobseekers not working within the Balance of Massachusetts numbered 62,207.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983	Jan. 1983
LABOR FORCE	86,700	84,800	86,400
Employment	76,000	73,900	75,100
Unemployment	10,700	10,900	11,300
Unemployment Rate 3/	12.3	12.8	13.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	693	789	956
Continued Weeks Claimed	5489	6266	6177

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	3105	1239	637	458	DNA
New Applicants ..... (This Month)	591	240	81	97	DNA

JOB OPENINGS 1/	Mar. 1983
Unfilled Openings 2/	--
Openings Received	1556

1/ Available During the Month
1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983	Jan. 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	62.8	62.3	60.9
Nonmanufacturing - Total	38.8	38.4	36.9
Construction	1.2	1.1	1.0
Trans. & public utilities	2.1	2.1	2.3
Wholesale & retail trade	11.9	11.7	12.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.1	2.1	2.0
Services & mining	10.8	10.6	10.5
Government	10.7	10.8	8.8

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983	Jan. 1983
Manufacturing - Total	24.0	23.9	24.0
Durable Goods - Total	8.3	8.1	7.9
Primary & fab. metals	3.3	3.2	3.1
Machinery (exc. electrical)	--	--	--
Electric equipment	--	--	--
Other durable goods	5.0	4.9	4.8
Nondurable Goods - Total	15.7	15.8	16.1
Textile mill products	--	--	--
Apparel & related products	7.2	7.3	7.6
Other Nondurable Goods	8.5	8.5	8.5

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983	Jan. 1983
Average Weekly Earnings	$280.87	$235.18	$258.22
Average Weekly Hours	37.6	32.8	37.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 7.47	$ 7.17	$ 6.96

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester.

NEW BEDFORD LMA

Massachusetts Profiles are published monthly by the DES Job Market Research Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Massachusetts Division of Employment Security
Kristin S. Demong, Director

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Dorothy R. Sullivan, Chief Supervisor

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Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

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THE RECOVERY PEAK'S CUT

The rate of unemployment climbed to a level of 11 percent for the labor market area in September. This was a drastic increase over the August rate of 7.8 percent. On a month-to-month basis we sometimes experience a rate that is out of line. It usually takes an additional month to get a clear picture. The October rate will probably be lower than September but higher than August. What this tells us is that August was the peak of the recovery and that the economy has turned around. The trend from now until January will be seasonal, that is, the rate will be increasing. Three factors will be working in that direction: the tourist trade, which is significant, the fishing industry,which is also significant and the apparel industry, which is obvious. Although these industries peak out at different times, thei all tend to bottom out in January.

Other forces are also working against us. Most importantly is the rate of interest.. Unfortunately, it must rise. With banks undergoing deregulation and competing for depositors with high interest rates, they must charge high interest rates to their creditors. Also, inflation is picking up steam, and the service sector of the economy appears to be losing momentum. The good news is that 1984 is an election year and that should keep the economy stable.

NEW LABOR MARKET SURPLUS AREAS

In an attempt to stimulate local economic development and strengthen our nation's industrial base, Congress has established a program which will provide new opportunities for firms located in areas where the unemployment rate is very high.

This program directs the Defense Department's supply branch - the Defense Ligistics Agency- to purchase some of the goods and services its needs from private sector suppliers located in labor surplus areas (a community where the unemployment rate is 20 percent above the national average). Small businesses will be the first to benefit from this preference program.

The current list is effective October 1, 1983 and runs through September 30, 1984. The cities and towns qualifying in Southeastern Massachusetts are Berkley, Eastham, Fall River, Falmouth, Hanson, Harwich, Hull, Marion, New Bedford, Oak Bluffs, Provincetown, Taunton, Wareham, Wellfleet, Westport. If there is an employer who feels their area should be a labor surplus area due to unforeseen economic development, please contact the Division of Employment Security, as they are the qualifying agency.

NEW DES PUBLICATIONS

The Occupational Employment Statistics Program is a part of a Federal State cooperative program involving State Employment Security Agencies (SESA's) as well as the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). It was designed to meet the needs of economists, employment specialists, educators, counselors and others for current data on employment by occupations as well as projected data on employment by occupation and industry. This publications presents the results and analysis of the eighteenth occupational survey of Massachusetts industries. Data covering these divisions of the nonmanufacturing sector appeared in three prior publications: 1973, 1976, and 1979. Each industry is surveyed triennially. Detailed occupational staffing patterns are presented for 12 two digit and 50 three digit industries.

Despite adverse economic conditions within some segments of the retail trade sector, overall employment increased by more than 2 percent between 1979 and 1982. The larges single percentage decrease in this sector was the nearly 8 percent loss among auto dealers and gasoline stations. Wholesale trade industries registered a 4 percent growth rate over this same period. The transportation, communications and utilities industries experienced a minor employment loss over the 3 year period. The largest decline was recorded in motor freight transportation and warehousing. Occupational staffing patterns have changed considerably within many industries. These changes reflect the continued growth in automation, new product development, and the strengthening of sales staffs.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	Sept. 1983	Aug. 1983	July 1983
LABOR FORCE	88.7	87.5	88.0
Employment	78.0	80.7	80.0
Unemployment	9.7	6.8	8.0
Unemployment Rate 3/	11.0	7.8	9.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	532	455	666
Continued Weeks Claimed	2185	2426	3196

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants					
New Applicants (This Month)		I	N	A	

JOB OPENINGS 1/	Sept. 1983
Unfilled Openings 2/	
Openings Received	INA

1/ Available During the Month

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Sept. 1983	Aug. 1983	July 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	64.4	64.0	63.0
Nonmanufacturing - Total	39.7	39.4	40.2
Construction	1.7	1.7	1.6
Trans. & public utilities	2.1	1.7	2.3
Wholesale & retail trade	12.1	12.2	12.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.2
Services & mining	11.3	11.5	11.6
Government	10.3	10.1	10.2

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Sept. 1983	Aug. 1983	July 1983
Manufacturing - Total	24.7	24.6	22.8
Durable Goods - Total	8.7	8.6	8.2
Primary & fab. metals	3.4	3.4	3.0
Machinery (exc. electrical)	--	--	--
Electric equipment	--	--	--
Other durable goods	5.3	5.2	5.2
Nondurable Goods - Total	16.0	16.0	14.6
Textile mill products	--	--	--
Apparel & related products	7.5	7.5	6.1
Other Nondurable Goods	8.5	8.5	8.5

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Sept. 1983	Aug. 1983	July 1983
Average Weekly Earnings	$288.29	$279.94	$269.75
Average Weekly Hours	39.6	38.4	38.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 7.28	$ 7.29	$ 7.08

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester.

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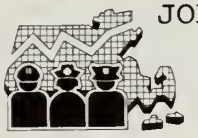
New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



SEASONAL ECONOMY DRIVES UP UNEMPLOYMENT

The rate of unemployment rose to a level of 9.6 percent for December in the labor market area. In the city of New Bedford the rate was 11.1 percent for the same time period. The annual average rate of unemployment for the labor market area in 1983 was 10.0 percent and 11.6 percent for the city. In 1982 the average was 12.4 percent for the LMA and 14.3 for the city.

This has been an unusual year for the economy. Last December the rate of unemployment was 12.7 percent for the labor market area. We began the year with unemployment rates of 13.1 percent (January), 12.8 percent (February), and 12.3 percent (March) for a first quarter average of 12.7 percent. The rates fell quickly throughout the spring and summer with the exception of the month of June when the rate rose from 9.0 to 9.8 percent. August was the key month of the year. It was during this time that the recovery bottomed out at a rate of 7.9 percent and the normal economy took over. Even so the focus of the recovery were still strong enough to exert downward pressure are unemployment in the months of October and November. It wasn't until the month of December that the seasonal economy began to exert its effect and, through a slowed economy, caused the rate of unemployment to rise to its present level of 9.6 percent.

The seasonal, or normal, economy would have high rates of unemployment in January, February and March. The year 1984 should be no exception. In fact with a resurgance of the automibile industry and increased federal spending, 1984 should be one of the better years in the economy along with 1976 and 1979. The possible exception would be the last quarter where rising interest rates dominate the economy.

RECENT DES PUBLICATION

The Research Department of the Division of Employment Security has printed the Labor Market Information for Affirmative Action Programs -1983 New Bedford LMA . The information contained in this publication is provided to assist employers who are attempting to meet Affirmative Action obligations.

Another report ready for distribution is 80 Job Opportunities for the 80's. It is an updated and expanded version of the publication High Demand Occupations for Massachusetts 1981. The information in this report is designed to meet the needs of both individuals who are currently seeking work, planning a career, or considering a career change and persons providing guidance in those matters. The 80 occupations included in this report are expected to provide 70 percent of all new jobs between 1980 and 1990.

A third publication, Occupations in Trade, Transportation, Communications and Utilities -1982 presents the staffing patterns of two divisions of non-manufacturing industries and the changes that have occurred since 1979. It is designed to meet the needs of economists, employment specialists, educators and counselors.

Another publication, and in many ways the most important one for those interested in the whole specturm of Labor Market Information Products is the Job Market Research Products and Services. The report describes the major programs of the Division of Employment Security and publications resulting from such program.

For free copies of these reports please write to:

Massachusetts Division of Employment Security
Job Market Research Publications
C.F. Hurley Building
Government Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983
LABOR FORCE	88.1	87.1	86.7
Employment	79.6	79.8	78.7
Unemployment	8.5	7.3	8.0
Unemployment Rate 3/	9.6	8.3	9.2
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	1485	667	515
Continued Weeks Claimed	4001	2807	2540

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	2045	687	586	368	--
New Applicants (This Month)	755	278	123	135	--

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	
Unfilled Openings 2/	887
Openings Received	

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	65.2	64.6	64.6
Nonmanufacturing - Total	40.1	39.9	39.7
Construction	1.4	1.5	1.6
Trans. & public utilities	2.1	2.1	2.1
Wholesale & retail trade	12.3	12.1	11.9
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.2
Services & mining	11.3	11.2	11.3
Government	10.8	10.8	10.6

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983
Manufacturing - Total	25.1	24.7	24.9
Durable Goods - Total	8.7	8.7	8.6
Primary & fab. metals	3.3	3.3	3.3
Machinery (exc. electrical)	--	--	--
Electric equipment	--	--	--
Other durable goods	--	--	--
Nondurable Goods - Total	16.4	16.0	16.3
Textile mill products	--	--	--
Apparel & related products	7.7	7.4	7.6
Other Nondurable Goods	8.7	8.6	8.7

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983
Average Weekly Earnings	$287.68	$263.87	$261.36
Average Weekly Hours	39.3	35.9	36.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 7.32	$ 7.35	$ 7.22

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford. Rochester.

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New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

SEASONAL UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASES

The rate of unemployment in the New Bedford Labor Market Area fell to 9.0 percent in March. This was a decrease from the unemployment rates of January and February which were 10.9 and 9.2 respectively. The number of people unemployed decreased by 1,600 or 17 percent from January to March while total employment increased by 1,500 jobs during the same time period.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

Total nonfarm employment increased for the third consecutive month as both the manufacturing and nonmanufacturing sectors posted gains. Levels of employment climbed slowly during the three-month period for an overall increase of 900 jobs. Manufacturing employment increased by 400 jobs with the largest being in nondurable goods. Nonmanufacturing employment increased by 500 jobs during the three-month period. Industries such as construction, services and government were gaining, while trade declined.

WHERE RESIDENTS OF NEW BEDFORD WORK

According to the 1980 census, 79.6 percent of the people in the city of New Bedford who were employed also work within the city. In addition, 93.0 percent of the city's residents were employed within Bristol County. Some 2,203 or 6.0 percent of New Bedford's outcommuters travelled to the town of Dartmouth for work. The town of Fairhaven was the workplace for 828 New Bedford residents and 456 travelled to Fall River. The other areas that employed New Bedford residents were as follows: Acushnet, 332; Taunton, 359; Brockton, 171; Freetown, 101; Lakeville, 101; Wareham, 114; Plymouth County, 797; Norfolk County, 306; Boston, 306; and Rhode Island, 398.

WHERE NEW BEDFORD WORKERS RESIDE

Previously we looked at New Bedford residents and where they worked. Now we will look at jobs within the city of New Bedford and where people come from to fill them. Of the 45,788 jobs in New Bedford (source 1980 census) 63.3 percent were filled by city residents and 91.5 percent were filled by Bristol County residents. Dartmouth and Fairhaven had 4,725 and 3,014 residents respectively holding jobs within the city. They were followed by Acushnet with 2,292 people employed in the city, Freetown (902), Westport (604), Fall River (632), and Taunton (183). In Plymouth County 2,763 residents travelled to New Bedford for employment, followed by Barnstable County with (255) and Norfolk County (156). Rhode Island residents held 487 jobs in New Bedford.

OCCUPATIONAL WAGES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has published a wage report on similar occupations for 23 different sections of the country including Southeast Massachusetts. The average straight-time hourly earnings for certain occupations were: secretaries, $6.57; typists, $4.86; file clerks, $4.37; key entry operators, $4.94; computer operators, $7.19; drafters, $7.56; electronic technicians, $9.26; maintenance carpenters, $7.84; maintenance mechanics, (machinery), $8.29; tool and die makers, $8.61; truck drivers, $9.98; shipping packers, $4.99; forklift operators, $7.21; guards, $3.82; and janitors, $5.60. When using this data, one must keep in mind that these are wages of people on the job as opposed to starting wages.

OCCUPATIONAL BREAKOUT OF APPLICANTS REGISTERED AT THE NEW BEDFORD OFFICE

The major occupational catagories of applicants in the New Bedford office were: packaging and material handling, 16.9 percent; services, 13.8 percent, clerical, 13.3 percent; structural, 10.9 percent; machine trades, 10.2 percent; professional, technical and managerial, 9.1 percent; agriculture and fishing, 7.0 percent; benchwork, 6.6 percent; sales, 4.3 percent; transportation, 3.7 percent; processing, 3.5 percent and miscellaneous, 0.6 percent.

JOB BANK

One year can make quite a difference in the economy. Last year at this time the New Bedford local office received 1,556 job orders from employers and this year the local office had received 2,995 job orders.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	March 1984	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984
LABOR FORCE	86.7	86.1	86.8
Employment	78.9	78.1	77.4
Unemployment	7.8	8.0	9.4
Unemployment Rate 3/	9.0	9.2	10.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	564	653	593
Continued Weeks Claimed	4114	3878	4074

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD-VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2228	697	529	346	998
New Applicants (This Month)	692	315	63	93	312

JOB OPENINGS 1/	March 1984
Unfilled Openings 2/	INA
Openings Received	3649

1/ Available During the Month
1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	March 1984	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	65.5	65.1	64.6
Nonmanufacturing - Total	39.9	39.7	39.4
Construction	2.0	1.8	1.8
Trans. & Public utilities	2.2	2.2	2.2
Wholesale & retail trade	12.6	12.7	12.8
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.2
Services & mining	10.9	10.9	10.8
Government	10.0	9.9	9.6

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	March 1984	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984
Manufacturing - Total	25.6	25.4	25.2
Durable Goods - Total	9.1	9.0	9.0
Primary & fab. metals	3.2	3.2	3.2
Machinery (exc. electrical)	xx	xx	xx
Electric equipment	xx	xx	xx
Other durable goods	5.9	5.8	5.8
Nondurable Goods - Total	16.5	16.4	16.2
Textile mill products	xx	xx	xx
Apparel & related products	8.7	8.7	8.7
Other Nondurable Goods	7.8	7.5	7.5

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	March 1984	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984
Average Weekly Earnings	NA	NA	NA
Average Weekly Hours	NA	NA	NA
Average Hourly Earnings	NA	NA	NA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS - These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester.

NEW BEDFORD LMA

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Massachusetts Profiles

New Bedford LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

THE ECONOMY LEVELS OFF

The rate of unemployment rose to 6.1 percent for the month of June in the New Bedford Labor Market Area. This is one half percent point increase over the month of May, yet it was 1.6 percentage points below April's rate of unemployment. The increase in the rate parallels the state's unadjusted rate which rose during the month of June by one half of a percentage point and the unadjusted national rate which rose by two tenths of a percentage point. For New Bedford, the state and the nation this is the first time, in 1984, than the unadjusted rate has increased.

Usually during the month of June, high school and college graduates enter the labor market and are classified as unemployed until they find employment. This June not only did the number of unemployed increase from May by 500 (10.2 percent) but also the number of people employed increased by 2,100 jobs (2.6 percent). This suggests that the economy is still strong but unable to absorb the new entrants rapidly.

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT CONTINUES UPWARD TREND

Total nonfarm employment has made considerable gains over the past few months. From January to June, total nonagricultural employment grew by 7.1 percent or 4,600 jobs. During the same time period, the Lowell area grew by 4.6 percent, the State by 4.3 percent and the Boston area by 3.9 percent. A comparison with the other major areas of employment throughout the state indicates that New Bedford has the fastest rate of employment growth.

A breakdown of New Bedford LMA employment from January to June shows manufacturing employment up by 1,400 jobs, with durable goods up by 200 jobs, and nondurable employment up by 1,200. Within nondurable manufacturing, apparel employment has increased by 1,900 positions. Other sectors of industry with employment growth are construction up 800 jobs; transportation, communications and public utilities up by 200 jobs; trade up 700 jobs; finance, insurance and real estate up 200; services up 700, and government up 800.

Between June 1983 and June 1984, total nonagricultural employment in the New Bedford LMA increased by 3,100 jobs. Manufacturing grew by 2,000 jobs with nondurable goods accounting for 1,700 positions. All industry groups except wholesale and retail trade contributed to the 1,100 job gain in the nonmanufacturing division. Retail and wholesale trade dropped 300 jobs from the 13,800 recorded in June 1983. Significant over-the-year increases in total employment have occurred within the last six months.

COMMUTING PATTERNS OF TAUNTON AREA RESIDENTS

According to the 1980 Census Journey-to-Work Data, the principal destination for work of the 22,367 employed residents of Berkeley, Dighton, and Taunton was the city of Taunton (50.5 percent). Over five percent of the employed residents of these three communities commuted to Attleboro, followed by nearly four percent who worked in Dighton. Of the 18,007 Taunton workers who identified their place of work, 10,514 or 58.4 percent worked in the city of Taunton. Of the 2,096 Dighton residents who named their place of work, almost thirty-three percent worked in Taunton. Almost thirty percent of the 1,144 Berkeley employed stated that they commuted to Taunton. To the west of the city of Taunton, Attleboro received 1,146 workers from Taunton. Taunton commuters to Mansfield numbered 523; to Norton, 349; and to Foxboro, 197. To the north of the City, recipients of Taunton workers were the communities of Easton (173); Brockton (543); and Boston (283). To the east, the town of Raynham benefited from 574 Taunton commuters. Employed Taunton residents travelled further east to Bridgewater (314), Middleboro (162), Lakeville (83) and Plymouth (53). South of the city, 474 residents worked in Dighton, 183 in New Bedfor, and 181 in Fall River. By county, the count of Taunton employed is Bristol, 14,474 or 80.4 percent; Plymouth, 1,283; Norfolk, 1,128; Middlesex, 331; and Barnstable 82. Providence County received 59 percent of the 349 Taunton residents who commuted to Rhode Island for employment.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	June 1984	May 1984	April 1984
LABOR FORCE	89.2	86.6	87.8
Employment	83.3	81.7	81.0
Unemployment	5.4	4.9	6.8
Unemployment Rate 3/	6.1	5.6	7.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	541	384	787
Continuad Weeks Claimad	2,318	2,640	3,647

1/ By Place of Residence
2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month
3/ Not Saasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	2,519	904	509	487	1,182
New Applicants (This Month)	836	361	72	199	439

1/ Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS 1/	June
Unfilled Openings 2/	INA
Openings Received	4,532

1/ At End of Period 2/ Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's) June 1984	May 1984	April 1984
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	69.2	67.9	67.0
Nonmanufacturing - Total	42.6	41.8	41.2
Construction	2.6	2.5	2.3
Trans & Public utilities	2.4	2.3	2.4
Wholesale & retail trade	13.5	13.3	12.9
Finance, ins & real estate	2.3	2.2	2.2
Services & mining	11.6	11.5	11.3
Government	10.2	10.0	10.1

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's) June 1984	May 1984	April 1984
Manufacturing - Total	26.6	26.1	25.8
Durable Goods - Total	9.2	9.1	9.2
Primary & fab. metals	3.1	3.1	3.2
Machinery (exc. electrical)	X X	X X	X X
Electric equipment	X X	X X	X X
Other durable goods	6.1	6.0	6.0
Nondurable Goods - Total	17.4	17.0	16.6
Textile mill products	X X	X X	X X
Apparel & related products	10.6	10.4	8.8
Other Nondurable Goods	6.8	6.6	7.8

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	June 1984	May 1984	April 1984
Average Weekly Earnings	283.97	287.08	290.51
Average Weekly Hours	38.9	38.9	39.1
Average Hourly Earnings	7.30	7.38	7.43

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